



# THE PARISH OF SAINT MARY, HALIFAX

Incorporating the churches of St Alban and St Mary

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Joshua Hilton  
 Deacons: Rev. John Walsh, Rev. Paul Coates  
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## HOLY YEAR MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONS JUBILEE 2025

### Perpetual Novena:

Wednesday after 9:30am  
 Mass

### Holy Rosary:

Saturday after 12:15pm  
 Mass

### Devotions to the Sacred Heart:

First Friday of the month  
 after 9:30am Mass

### Our Lady's Lamp this week burns for:

Bob & Anne Henry



### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday 11:00am –  
 12:00pm  
 at St Mary's

### Confessions:

Saturday -  
 11:00am-12:00pm – St  
 Mary's  
 Sunday -  
 5:30pm–6:00pm – St  
 Alban's  
 or on Request

### Marriages and Baptisms

by appointment  
 See the priest after Mass

The month of August is dedicated to: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

SUNDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30am 11:00am 6:00pm	St Mary's St Mary's St Alban's	Sister Anne Thérèse Francis Iloka R.I.P. People of the Parish
MONDAY 25 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	No Mass		
TUESDAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bl. Dominic Barberi	No Mass		
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	St Monica	9:30am	St Mary's	Mary & Eddie Coates
THURSDAY 28 <sup>th</sup>	St Augustine	9:30am	St Alban's	Fr Sean Elliott Intentions
FRIDAY 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Beheading of St John the Baptist	12:00 Noon	St Mary's	Paul Griffin R.I.P.
SATURDAY 30 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	12:15pm	St Mary's	Marie Finn
	Vigil Mass	4:00pm	St Mary's	Polish Mass

### READERS ROTA

THIS SUNDAY				NEXT SUNDAY			
9:30am	Lily Hymas			9:30am	John Greenwood		
11:00am	Malcolm Brown			11:00am	Wendy Balahura		
6:00pm	Rachel Fitzpatrick			6:00pm	Judith McDonald		

**PRAYER LIST:** Sadie Mills, Tony Hintze Mary Staden Peter Staden, Gerard James, David Sutcliffe, John Wallis, William Long, Julie Simpson, Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Peter Smith, Julie Hall, Sonya Box, Kathleen Hannan, Nancy McGrath, Eleanor Foran, Rita Baxendale, Michael McDonnell and all the sick and housebound of the parish, their families and those who care for them. If you know of anyone in the parish who is ill or is housebound please let Fr Hilton or Deacon John know so that a visit can be arranged.

**MASSES RECEIVED**

Seamus Costello, Thanksgiving, Fr John Carter, Francis Iloka, Joe Riddeal, Edward Hintze, Seamus Costello, Inese Smidre

**PARISH CEILIDH FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025**  
**(STARTS 7:30PM) PELLON SOCIAL CLUB**

Tickets are now on sale for what will be a night of lively music, dancing and entertainment, whilst raising funds for the Parish. No dance experience? No problem. You'll be guided through the easy-to-follow-dances. Two left feet? No problem. It adds to the fun factor. Low on energy? No problem. Half-time supper will be provided to recharge your batteries plus Bar available to keep you refreshed throughout the evening. Ticket price: £20 (inc. supper). Cash only please.

**RETREAT AT AMPLEFORTH ABBEY 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Monday to Wednesday retreat at Ampleforth Abbey. We will arrive in time for tea and cake on Monday afternoon and leave after lunch on Wednesday. Full board in ensuite rooms.

We will join the monks for their Sung Offices (prayers) and for Mass.

One of the monks will also give us some spiritual input as a group.

There will be time for silence, private prayer, and socialising in the evenings.

The price will be £190 per person with a £25 deposit.

Sign up at the back of church.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

His Lordship the Bishop will Confirm the young people of the deanery this year on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November here in St Mary's at 7:00pm. If your child in year 6 or above and in a non-Catholic school and you wish to enrol them in the course, see me after Mass. (1<sup>st</sup> session Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 5:00pm)

**BATLEY TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION**

Fr Eamonn Hegarty and the Parish of St Mary's, Batley will once again be hosting the annual Torchlight Procession on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October, commencing at 7:30pm. The candle lit procession will start at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and end with Benediction at the nearby St Mary of the Angels' Church.

The Torchlight Procession is a fine expression of our Catholic faith and gives honour to Mary, the Mother of God. Refreshments afterwards. This year the guest preacher is yours truly.

We will have a bus going from our own St Mary's, leaving at 6:00pm and departing Batley at 9:30pm.

Bus places £15 per person. Sign up at the back of church.

**PARISH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

FASHION SHOW – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September (St Mary's School)

PARISH CEILIDH – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October (Pellon Social Club)

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October (Batley)

60's NIGHT – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October (Catholic Club)

AFTERNOON TEA – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November (Catholic Club)

PARISH RETREAT – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (Ampleforth Abbey)

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December (St Alban's Hall)

**RECENT FINANCIAL NEWS**

Last week's loose collection was **£661.65** Total Approx. **£1392.65** (Inc. standing orders & card)

## **FROM YOUR PARISH PRIEST**

Following on from last week's look at the liturgical calendar this week, we celebrate the *memorias* of two extraordinary saints. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, we celebrate St. Monica, the devoted mother whose unwavering prayers transformed the life of her wayward son and on the following day we celebrate, him, St. Augustine of Hippo, one of the Church's greatest theologians and Doctors. These feasts invite us to reflect on the vital role of prayer in our lives, particularly in seeking the conversion of our loved ones and in offering prayers for the faithful departed.

St Monica's story is one of relentless hope amid heartache. Born in North Africa in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, she married a pagan man and raised three children, including her brilliant but rebellious son, Augustine. Augustine, known for his intellectual scepticism and loose living, seemed far from the faith that his mother cherished. For over 17 years she prayed fervently for his conversion, shedding tears that, as he later wrote in his book *The Confessions* that "watered the seeds of his soul." She sought advice from bishops, followed him across continents and never ceased her pleas to God. Her persistence paid off when Augustine, influenced by his friend St Ambrose and an encounter with Scripture, embraced Christianity at the age of 33. He was baptised in AD 387 and went on to become a bishop, philosopher, and an ardent defender of the faith.

This mother-son duo reminds us of the importance of praying for the conversion of our loved ones with unwavering persistence. In a world full of distractions, secularism, doubt, addiction and indifference, many of us have family members and friends who have lapsed from the faith or have no faith at all. St Monica teaches us that prayer is not just a one-time petition but a lifelong commitment. As Jesus urges in the Gospel, we must "pray always and not lose heart." Persistent prayer aligns our will with God's, fostering patience and trust in His timing. It transforms us as much as those we pray for, deepening our reliance on His mercy. No soul is beyond God's reach.

Yet, the call to prayer extends well beyond the living. These feasts also prompt us to remember the Holy Souls in purgatory, for whom our prayers provide assistance in their purification. On her death bed, St Monica's said to her son, "*Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be.*" Augustine did just that. We must never forget that death does not sever our communion with the saints and the departed. Praying for the dead is an act of charity, rooted in the fact that God's mercy extends into eternity.

Nowhere are we closer to the dead than at Mass, where heaven and earth converge at God's altar. The Eucharist is the supreme prayer of the Church, uniting us with Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. During the Eucharistic Prayer, we explicitly remember the dead, offering the merits of Jesus' Body and Blood for their relief. As the veil between the living and the dead thins in this sacred mystery, our intentions become part of that eternal offering. St Augustine described the Mass as a bridge to the afterlife, where the faithful departed benefit from our participation. Even simple acts, like lighting a candle or reciting the Eternal Rest draw us into this communion.

In celebrating St Monica and St Augustine this week, we are called to a vibrant prayer life that embraces both the living and the dead. Their teaching challenges us: Do not grow weary in praying for conversions, for God's grace works miracles in hidden ways. And remember the souls who have gone before us, especially at Mass, where we stand closest to them in the presence of the Almighty. May these saints intercede for our us, inspiring us to persist in faith, hope and love.

God bless you all,  
Fr Hilton

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Fr Hilton or Deacon John by Wednesday evening. Notices and News can be sent again by Wednesday evening to [office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.stmary.halifax@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is TBC  
Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404